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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
EXECUTIVE

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Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan
Ludington City Council Chambers
400 South Harrison Street
Ludington, Michigan 49431

June 14, 2013
Meeting Minutes No. 290

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Gil Guzman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Gil Guzman, Noel Garcia, Jr., Norma Huizar, Jesse Venegas, Carlos Sanchez, Olga Hernandez-Patino, Carlos Alvarado, Julio Morales

Excused Absence: Gilberto Guevara (family commitment), Raquel Castaneda-Lopez (personal commitment), Maria Oxholm (work commitment), JoAnn Chavez (Out of town), George Fierro (personal commitment)

Unexcused Absence: Melissa Fernandez

Staff Present: Marylou Mason, Victoria Garcia-Martin

II. Introduction of Commissioners

Chairman Guzman asked Commissioners and staff to introduce themselves.

III. Welcoming Remarks

Mayor John Henderson and Cathy, President of the Ludington Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the Commission to Ludington. Mayor Henderson asked Commissioners to share any ideas they have to make Ludington a better place to visit. Commissioners suggested considering a river walk or boardwalk that families can walk on.

IV. Approval of Absences: Commissioner absences: Gilberto Guevara (family commitment), Raquel Castaneda-Lopez (personal commitment), Maria Oxholm (work commitment), JoAnn Chavez (Out of Town), George Fierro (personal commitment)

MOTION: Commissioner Huizar moved to accept the absences of Commissioners Gilberto Guevara, Raquel Castaneda-Lopez, Maria Oxholm, JoAnn Chavez, George Fierro, and Guevara. Motion supported by Commissioner Hernandez-Patino. Motion carried.

Chairman Guzman noted that Commissioner Fernandez was supposed to be present but she is not here yet. Chairman Guzman expressed his concern for Commissioners commitment is for serving on this Commission. He asked for Commissioners if they wanted to excuse her absence and also added that her hotel room was pre-paid. Chairman Guzman asked if this issue should be tabled until the next meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Garcia moved to accept the absence of Commissioner Fernandez as unexcused and then bring to issue to the next meeting for reconsideration if there is good reason for absence. Commissioner Morales supported the motion. Commissioner Sanchez suggested for future instances that Commissioners be made aware that if they do not show up and had a room reservation, they will be charged for the room. Commissioner Garcia amended the motion to add if the absence is unexcused that Commissioner Fernandez be charged for the room. If the absence is excused, this will be discussed at the next meeting. Amended motion supported by Commissioner Morales. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Alvarado moved to accept the agenda of June 14, 2013. Commissioner Sanchez supported the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Hernandez-Patino moved to accept the minutes of May 3, 2013. Commissioner Huizar supported the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Public Forum

Rose Rangel, MI Works Agency: Ms. Rangel welcomed the Commission to the Ludington area.

Chairman Guzman asked Ms. Rangel to please relay his sincere appreciation to Ms. Judy Esop for the outstanding job that Ruby Salgado and Cathy Burrillo did in regard to setting up the migrant meetings. He stated it was a great meeting with the migrants and the Commission appreciated all their hard work.

VIII. Executive Reports

A. Chairperson's Report:

Chairman Guzman stated he has several conversations with the Director of Civil Rights, as well as the Finance Director, Leslee Fritz. He also noted that he also met with the Executive Director, Commissioner Guevara and Senator Roger Kahn regarding the Commission's budget. Senator Kahn is the chairman of the appropriations. He stated he is hopeful they will have good information to share at the next meeting.

B. Executive Director's Report:

Director Mason stated Commissioners have had the opportunity to review her report and she entertained any questions they may have.

Director Mason informed Commissioners that the office prepared a certificate of appreciation to each farm we visited. At the last visit which was Arbre Farms, we presented a framed certificate to the one of the owners and we expressed our sincere thanks for allowing us to prepared and serve dinner to the migrants on their site and for all the good they do for the workers and community. The owner was very grateful for the recognition from the Commission.

Ms. Mason indicated that we were supposed to honor Cathy and Ruby from MI Works at today's meeting but due to Ruby's daughter's surgery and Cathy having a work commitment, we were unable to do so. However, we would like to reschedule a time on which to honor them for their assistance on planning the migrant visits and to express our gratitude.

The executive director reminded Commissioners that the next meeting is in October in Adrian. A strategic planning session has been scheduled for the afternoon, following the Commission Meeting.

Ms. Mason stated that MI Hispanic Legislative Advocacy Day and the annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration has been scheduled for Thursday, September 26th. There are still many decisions that need to be made by the respective committees in regard to both events so plans can be finalized. The Office is still trying to secure a location for the banquet so we can hold both events on the same day to lessen Commissioners travel.

As Chairman Guzman stated, we have had several meeting with MDCR staff and with Senator Kahn. I will be able to provide an update on our budget in the next few weeks.

Ms. Mason stated that we will take the Hispanic Education Summit on the road this year.

Chairman Guzman stated that the issue of taking the Summit on the road vs. having it in Lansing has been discussed by the Committee at length. In past years, he has been able to contact friends and former business partners to cosponsor buses to assist some schools to participate in the Summit. Transportation is a big issue with schools due to the state of the economy. It is easier for the staff and Commissioners to travel to hold the Summit than have schools from all over Michigan come to Lansing. Also, with us traveling to the schools, we don't have to cover their lunch with a major cost of the Summit. Chairman Guzman stated he discussed this issue with Commissioner Alvarado and how several of the schools districts

around Ludington can drive to one central location and our Summit can be held there, in addition to other predetermined areas such as Saginaw and South haven and other areas. They have all indicated this is a great idea.

MOTION: Commissioner Huizar moved to accept executive reports. Commissioner Morales supported the motion. Motion supported.

IX. Committee Reports:

A. Economic Development/Agriculture: Commissioner Sanchez reported committee has met by conference call and decided the following:

1. Wants to develop a closer working relationship with Latino business organizations, as well as Hispanic farm owners.
2. Need to schedule a meeting to meet with all Hispanic Chamber leaders/Board Members
3. Formulate a common Latino agenda regarding economic development
4. Enhance communications between the Commission and those organizations

Executive Director Mason suggested having a "meet & greet" reception and invite the Lt. Governor as a guest. Commissioner Sanchez asked Ms. Mason if she can approach the Lt. Governor on his availability.

Commissioner Alvarado stated that due to his busy schedule with chair of the Legislative & Civic Engagement Committee and personal commitments, he would like to be excused as a member of the Education Committee. He did state he could remain a volunteer or resource to the committee.

Commissioner Sanchez stated he appreciated his honesty about his ability to participate on the Committee.

Chairman Guzman accepted his request to be excused from the committee.

B. Education/Health: Commissioner Huizar discussed the issue of having the Education Summit on the road.

Commissioner Garcia stated he knew that Commissioner Castaneda-Lopez really wanted to keep the event in Lansing but in light of the outstanding costs involved and the fact that it provides a civic engagement opportunity for the students, he is supportive of taking the Summit on the road.

MOTION: Commissioner Garcia moved to support having the Education Summit be held regionally in different areas of the state vs. in Lansing. Commissioner Morales stated this issue was previously discussed but at the time the Committee wanted to keep it in Lansing. But in light of financial reasons, he fully supports having it held in different areas of the state. Commissioner Venegas likes of the idea but expressed the importance of exposing students to the state capital. He stated that perhaps this committee can discuss this issue further and consider having the Summit at the capital every other year. Commissioner Huizar also suggested that an additional aspect for Advocacy Day can be to bring high school students. Commissioner Venegas agreed that is a good idea. Commissioner Hernandez-Patino stated she feels we need more media coverage for these events. She also stated that we need Commissioners to be more committed on attending events and assisting the office in carrying out these events. Chairman Guzman agreed. Commissioner Morales supported the motion. Motion carried.

- C. Legislative & Civic Engagement: Commissioner Alvarado stated this committee had a conference call on June 7. There are only 2 active member of this committee; Commissioner Alvarado and Commissioner Castaneda-Lopez. Commissioner Fierro will be moving out of state in the near future. The date for the event is September 26th and it was decided to achieve not a huge goal but try to achieve immediate results.

Commissioner Alvarado stated he has an opportunity to review the NCLR Tool Kit for having an advocacy day. The committee discussed this and suggested taking specific issues and to create a panel of representatives to target areas that Commissioners represent. We will invite them to participate. This will provide a panel of individuals so the legislators can hear from the people.

Commissioner Alvarado asked the office to send an email to Commissioners requesting 3 topics they feel we should target. Then each Commissioner should contact their legislators and make a formal invitation for that day for us to meet with them. Instead of meeting with all legislators in their separate offices, meet with targeted legislators in one room who in turn will learn about important topics relative to the Hispanic community. The committee is still working on the logistics of how this will run.

Commissioner Morales stated we also need to identify which legislator would be best to approach.

Commissioner Alvarado stated that due to the July 4th holiday, the next conference call for this committee will be held on July 12 at 9:00am.

MOTION: Commissioner Morales moved to accept Committee Reports. Commissioner Garcia supported the motion. Motion carried.

X. Old Business:

- A. Student Education Summit – discussed.
- B. Hispanic Heritage Month – discussed. The office is looking for a hotel to hold the reception.
- C. Michigan Hispanic Legislative Advocacy Day – discussed
- D. Immigration Forum for west side of state – Executive Director Mason stated she hasn't had an opportunity to discuss this issue with Sook Wilkinson, Chairman of the Asian American Commission, due to the planning of this meeting.

XI. New Business:

- 1) Commissioner Venegas stated that Mexican Consul Vicente Sanchez has been reassigned and is leaving. He suggested the Commission have a welcome reception for the new consul. Ms. Mason agreed that is a great idea and also added that we can ask the Sister Cities Commission to partner with us on that reception.
- 2) Chairman Guzman state he would like to have the goal of 100% participation at the next meeting on October 11th. Please clear your schedule for this meeting on October 11th @ 10:00am, Adrian. Strategic Planning Session will be held from 1-5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50a.m.

Prepared by Commission staff:



Gil Guzman
Chairperson

Date



Norma Huizar
Secretary



Date